

Remarks:

Claims 1–11 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 6, and 11 being independent. In the Office Action dated April 20, 2005, claims 1–3 and 6–8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zhou, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0005574. Furthermore, claims 4, 5, and 9–11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou in view of Stark, U.S. Patent No. 6,759,590, and Leung, U.S. Patent No. 6,661,090.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1, Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to recite “a single-piece cover having walls and a top, *wherein the walls and the top are each made of a continuous piece of material.*” The new language is supported in the specification at page 3, lines 24–34 and FIG. 2, among other places. The cover with continuous walls and top as recited in claim 1 is advantageous because it is hermitically sealed once it is soldered to the substrate—no additional adhesives or soldering are required.

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest each limitation of claim 1. The prior art does not teach or suggest, for example, a single-piece cover having walls and a top, wherein the top and the walls are each made of a continuous piece of material. Zhou does not disclose a single-piece cover with continuous walls and top, but rather discloses a cover with a connection slot (404) in a wall thereof and a sealant slot (402) in a top thereof. The walls and top of Zhou, therefore, are clearly not continuous.

Furthermore, Zhou does not render the invention of claim 1 obvious because Zhou expressly teaches away from a cover with walls and a top “wherein the walls and the top are each made of a continuous piece of material.” The express purpose of Zhou, for example, is to provide a hermetically-sealed opto-electronic package that allows optical fibers to pass through walls of the package. (See, e.g., Zhou, ¶¶ 7–9, 51; FIG. 5). Therefore, modifying Zhou to include a cover with continuous walls and top as recited in claim 1 would render Zhou unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

Independent claims 6 and 11 have been amended to recite limitations similar

to that of claim 1, therefore the discussion of claim 1 set forth above also applies to claims 6 and 11. The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 6, and 11. For at least the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-11 are now in allowable condition and requests a Notice of Allowance.

In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

BY: 

Thomas B. Luebbering, Reg. No. 37,874
2405 Grand Blvd., Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)